



PECFA POST



A newsletter created and distributed by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, Bureau of PECFA Site Review Section

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March 2002

Farewell to Site Review Section Chief Lori Huntoon

Lori Huntoon, who most of you know had been the ERS Site Review Section Chief for the past 4 years, has recently been appointed by the Governor as the new Division Administrator of Professional Credentialing for the Department of Regulation and Licensing. The ERS Division would like to bid a fond farewell to Lori Huntoon, thank her for her years of dedicated service, and wish her the best in her new endeavor.

Welcome Aboard!

Recently, three staff members joined the Bureau of PECFA. They are:

- **Jim Quast**, Bureau Director (Acting), located in the Madison office.
- **Joe Hertel**, Section Chief Site Review Section (Acting), located in the Madison office.
- **Harold Stanlick**, Hydrogeologist Supervisor (Acting), located in the Milwaukee office.

Interest Cost Reimbursement Deadline: January 2, 2002



In order for an RP to receive maximum

reimbursement on interest costs, sites receiving conditional closure on or prior to August 30, 2001 should have submitted the final claim before or by January 2, 2002.

Note: All current and future claims must be submitted within 120 days of Conditional Closure for maximum reimbursement of interest costs.

Site Investigation and Cleanup Cost Deadline: December 22, 2001

At sites where the site investigation was started on or after December 22, 2001, the maximum coverage for AST and UST remedial efforts will be \$190,000 with a flat \$10,000 deductible per occurrence.

Note: Annual aggregate per owner / operator is \$190,000.

For an owner or operator of an AST or UST system who has an emergency action approved by Commerce or an investigation started **prior to December 22, 2001** [see Comm 47.335 (4) for 'start of investigation'], the current deductible, coverage amounts, and aggregates will apply.

Tanks identified as Public / Technical School District tanks, farm tanks or home heating oil tanks will maintain current coverage and deductible amounts.

Refer to Revised Update 17, November 2001, for additional information.

**Deadlines for Site
Investigations?**

- page 2

**Questions about
GIS and Closure
Requests?**

- page 2

**Evaluating Indoor
Air Quality:
Petroleum Vapor
Intrusion?**

- page 2

**Voluntary Party
Liability
Exemption
(VPLE).**

page 4

Deadlines for Site Investigations:

If notification was before August 31, 2001, the investigation must be completed by the first day of the 61st month after notification of contamination or the first day of the 25th month after August 31, 2001, whichever is later; interest costs incurred after the later of those dates are ineligible.

If notification was on or after August 31, 2001, Investigations must be completed by the first day of the 61st month after notification of contamination to WDNR or interest costs incurred after that date are ineligible.

The above information was previously included in Update 17, November 2001. For further detailed information, refer to s. 101.143(4)(cc)1.c. The specific state statute can be located via the internet at the following link:
<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/stats.html>

Questions about GIS and Closure requests?

- Payment of the \$250 fee to DNR
 - Commerce and DNR will not complete a file review until a **“Completed”** request for closure is received. The **“Completed”** request includes the fee and all documents required for the GIS package.
- A completed GIS Registry package is **NOT** a condition of closure. The fee must be paid prior to the submittal of the closure request and all requirements of the GIS package must be included within the closure request at the time of submittal. A file review can not be initiated without this information. Follow the GIS package guidelines to ensure that all the information for the registry is included in the closure request.



- Information regarding the GIS registration process can be found on the DNR and Commerce websites:
www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/wi_regs/gis_full_package.pdf.

Evaluating Indoor Air Quality: Petroleum Vapor Intrusion

From a November 2001 presentation by Chuck Warzecha and Rob Thiboldeaux from the Division of Public Health.

Constant or frequently noticeable petroleum odors in residential indoor air likely indicate a public health hazard. Petroleum vapors commonly enter buildings through a foundation drain tile, utility line, or cracks in floors and walls. The risks related to this exposure pathway at LUST sites are frequently misunderstood and commonly overlooked. The leading health concern about indoor petroleum vapors is the potential for fire or explosion. In Wisconsin this threat has been a rare. Local fire officials are adept at assessing this threat when it is brought to their attention. However, even in the absence of an explosion hazard, petroleum odors still pose a health risk.

The individuals most affected by petroleum vapors are children, the elderly, and others with pre-existing respiratory problems such as asthma. Since children and the elderly tend to spend more of their time at home, this increases their exposure duration and risk. Respiratory irritation symptoms, nausea, and headaches are common short-term symptoms of petroleum exposure. These symptoms usually diminish after exposure is stopped. Contractors commonly refer to occupational air standards because residential standards don't exist. A common rule of thumb for non-carcinogens is to take 2.4% of the TLV (Threshold Limit Value) as the appropriate residential screening value when more appropriate residential guidance isn't available. This percentage adjusts from a 40-

- see “Indoor Air” next page -

“Indoor Air”

- from previous page –

hour workweek to a full week, and adds a factor of ten for sensitive individuals.

Another health concern is the cancer risk from low-level but chronic exposure to carcinogens that are part of the petroleum mixture. In a long-term residential exposure situation, benzene levels at the odor threshold (roughly 5 ppm) pose an increased cancer risk more than one thousand times greater than we would allow in a drinking water exposure. Although benzene is rarely present above the odor threshold, it may still be present at harmful concentrations where petroleum odors are noticed. This is because other components of petroleum, such as toluene, xylenes, and naphthalene can be smelled at very low concentrations. These low concentrations of odiferous compounds “signal” the presence of benzene. When faint but perceptible gasoline odors are noticed, benzene levels can still be ten to one-hundred-fold more concentrated than levels considered safe and appropriate for residential indoor air.

Fuel oil and diesel fuel present slightly different health concerns than gasoline. Although fuel oil and diesel fuel have lower fractions of benzene than gasoline, the higher fraction of naphthalene can be acutely irritating at very low levels. The variable factors that influence vapor intrusion and indoor air quality make it difficult to quantify exposure to petroleum vapors. However, the low odor threshold of petroleum vapors allows us to

put several boundaries on the problem. First, if you can smell it, you probably won't be able to rule out chronic exposure as a health concern. Second, if you can't smell it, it is unlikely to be a significant health risk. This is not because benzene below the odor threshold can not pose a health risk, but rather because concentrations of petroleum contaminants tend to decline over time.

Air monitoring is seldom necessary when petroleum odors are apparent. Because levels change dramatically from hour to hour and day to day, the results can only be used qualitatively. The expense of air testing should be spared and redirected towards correcting the problem. Similarly, vapor intrusion modeling is of little value in the case where petroleum odors are already present.

The most useful technique for evaluating this pathway is simply talking to the site neighbors. Find out if they have ever had odors inside that aren't from outdoor air sources, such as tank fillings, surface spills, etc. Water infiltration into basements makes vapor intrusion more likely. Ask if they have active sumps, or other indicators of chronic water problems. If they have chronic water problems, they may also have unrelated health hazards that can make the situation more complex (mold). If they don't have basements, vapor intrusion is unlikely.

- When a problem is identified, the most common method of mitigation is the technology used

- see “Indoor Air” next page –

Circulation of the PECFA Post and Request for Topics of Concern

In a continued effort to expedite the circulation of future newsletters, they will be distributed electronically. If you would like to be placed on the e-mail list, or on a regular mail list, please forward your e-mail address to Kristi Hammes at khammes@commerce.state.wi.us, or in writing at the address listed on page 6. Kristi is the current point of contact for the PECFA POST newsletter.

Thank you for your replies to topics covered in previous editions of the PECFA Post. Many suggestions and replies have been received, which will be taken up in future issues, and will be distributed via email unless otherwise notified. Please note that the PECFA Post is also available on the Commerce Web Site. Commerce would like to continue to hear from you, the consultant, about topics that you would like to have covered in future newsletters and training sessions. Please continue to send your comments and suggestions to Kristi Hammes

"Indoor Air"**- from previous page -**

for radon mitigation. These systems can be relatively inexpensive when compared to the cost of an indoor air investigation. A list of radon contractors can be obtained at the following DHFS web site:

http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/dph_beh/RadonProt/Lists/MitigProf.htm

Staff in the DHFS Bureau of Environmental Health, are currently developing a short fact sheet that addresses soil vapor intrusion into indoor air (including chlorinated solvents). This fact sheet will be available on their web site along with other fact sheets currently available on environmental topics.

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/eh>

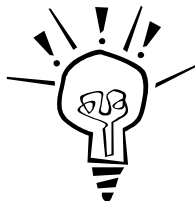
* Vapor intrusion of chlorinated solvents or other chemicals with poor odor warning properties are handled differently.

Recommendation to Consultants From Commerce Site Review:

- Include the appropriate Comm # (Including the occurrence identifier) and WDNR BRRTS # on all submittals.
- To ensure that your request for closure is reviewed in a timely manner, state in the title of the report/submittal that a "Request for Closure" is included.

Commerce Needs to Hear From You!

The PECFA Post has been created to address issues regarding the site review section of PECFA. Several questions and comments have been provided to Commerce to be addressed, however without hearing from everybody, we can only assume what you may be concerned with or not fully understand. Pass the PECFA Post Newsletter on to your co-workers and anyone that may be interested in the



information, and tell them to request to be put on to the distribution list. The best part is that there is no charge for this newsletter – it is free! By passing the information on to others around you, it may spark discussions, which could lead into a better understanding of the PECFA Program. Many questions are being entertained by Commerce, and the answers are on current, and previous issues. All issues of the PECFA Post can be accessed through the Commerce website as referenced in the newsletter as well.

Voluntary Party Liability Exemption (VPLE)

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have prepared a fact sheet of frequently asked questions that will assist parties seeking a Voluntary Party Liability Exemption (VPLE) at a site with contamination from petroleum aboveground and underground storage tanks (ASTs and USTs). The fact sheet will also aid those who are using the Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Act (PECFA) to pay for part of the environmental cleanup costs at a VPLE site.

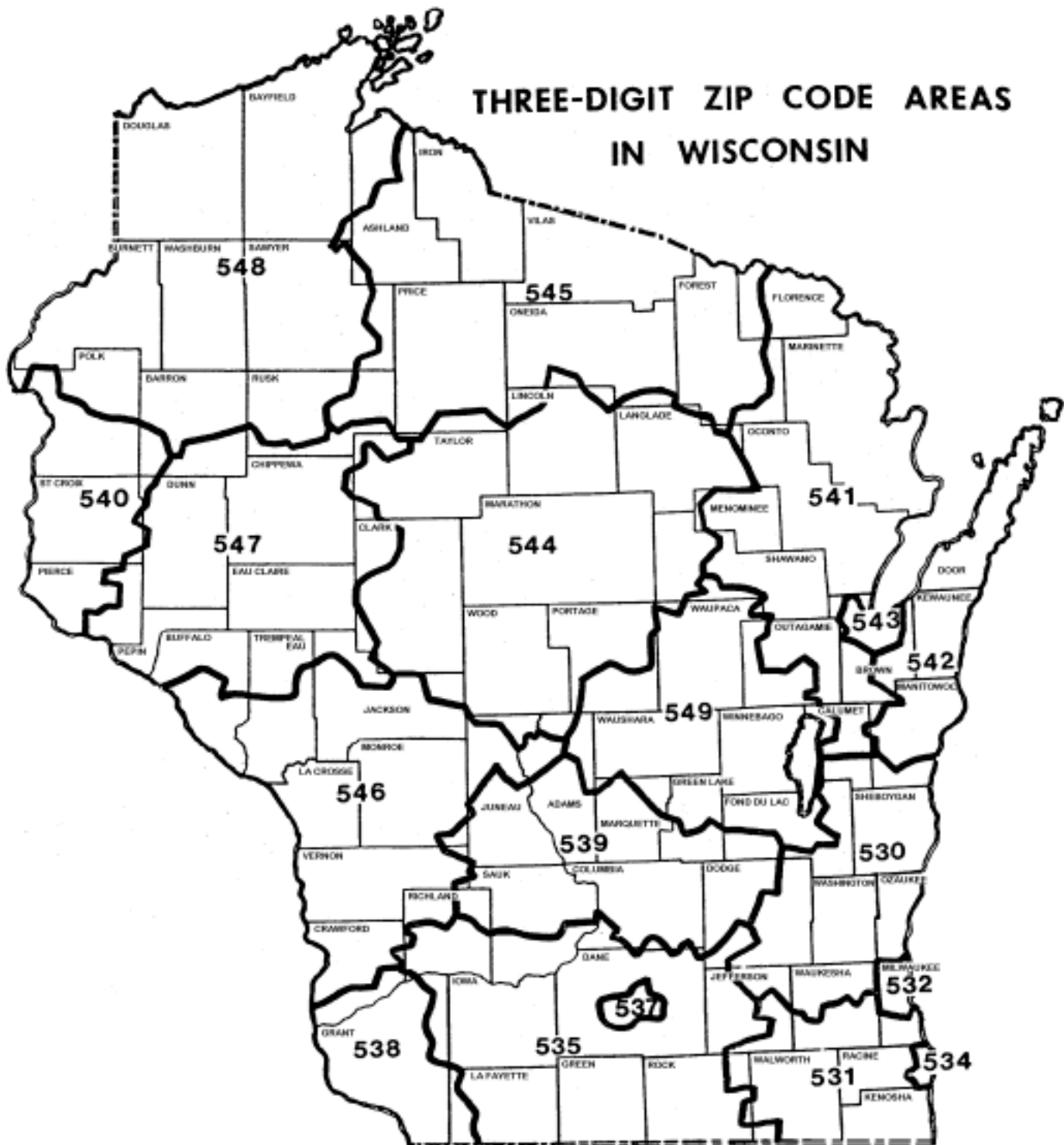
Attached to the fact sheet is a table that indicates the roles and responsibilities of the responsible parties, as well as the agencies (DNR and Commerce), and provides information about where technical reports for each of the different categories of sites should be sent.

The fact sheet, "Clarification of Procedures for Parties Seeking the Voluntary Party Liability Exemption (VPLE) for Petroleum Contaminated Sites (Fact Sheet #14)", is now available on the DNR web site at:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR677.pdf>

Please note: General information on the VPLE process can be found in the DNR's "Fact Sheet #2: Voluntary Party Remediation and Exemption from Liability" (Publication # RR-506).

PECFA Site Review Zone Coverage Map



PECFA Site Review Zone Contact Information

Bureau Director (Acting) Jim Quast WI Dept Of Commerce 201 W Washington Ave PO Box 8044 Madison WI 53708-8044 (608) 266-7605 FAX 608-267-1381		Section Chief Site Review Section (Acting) Joe Hertel WI Dept Of Commerce 201 W Washington Ave PO Box 8044 Madison WI 53708-8044 (608) 267-4545 FAX 608-267-1381	
Hydrogeologist Supervisor (Acting) Harold Stanlick (414) 220-5372 FAX 414-220-5374 WI Dept of Commerce 101 W. Pleasant St. Suite 100A Milwaukee, WI 53212-3963		Program Assistant(s) Kristi Hammes (608) 267-3753 Cathy Voges (608) 261-7717 FAX 608-267-1381 WI Dept Of Commerce 201 W Washington Ave PO Box 8044 Madison WI 53708-8044	
ZIP CODE STARTING WITH:		CONTACT INFO:	
530, 531, 532, 534		Lee Delcore (414) 220-5403 Stephen Mueller (414) 220-5402 Nancy Kochis (414) 220-5372 Jennifer Skinner (414) 220-5373 Greg Michael (414) 220-5375 Monica Weis (414) 220-5361 Linda Michalets (414) 220-5376	WI Dept of Commerce 101 W Pleasant St Suite 100A Milwaukee WI 53212-3963 FAX 414-220-5374
535		Will Myers (608) 261-7718 Ralph Smith (608) 261-6543 Alan Hopfensperger (608) 266-0562	WI Dept Of Commerce 201 W Washington Ave PO Box 8044 Madison WI 53708-8044 FAX 608-267-1381
537, 538		Eric Scott (608) 266-8516 Andrew Alles (608) 261-8509 Jon Heberer (608) 261-5405	WI Dept Of Commerce 201 W Washington Ave PO Box 8044 Madison WI 53708-8044 FAX 608-267-1381
539, 546		David Swimm (608) 264-8766 Gena Larson (608) 261-5404	WI Dept Of Commerce 201 W Washington Ave PO Box 8044 Madison WI 53708-8044 FAX 608-267-1381
540, 548		Shawn Wenzel (608) 261-5401	WI Dept Of Commerce 201 W Washington Ave PO Box 8044 Madison WI 53708-8044 FAX 608-267-1381
544, 547		Dee Zoellner (715) 342-3802 Tim Zeichert (715) 345-5307	WI Dept Of Commerce 2715 Post Rd Stevens Point WI 54481-6456 FAX 715-345-5225
		Brian Taylor (608) 266-0593	WI Dept Of Commerce 201 W Washington Ave PO Box 8044 Madison WI 53708-8044 FAX 608-267-1381
545		David Blair (608) 261-2515	WI Dept Of Commerce 201 W Washington Ave PO Box 8044 Madison WI 53708-8044 FAX 608-267-1381
541		Beth Erdman (920) 303-5410	WI Dept Of Commerce 2129 Jackson St Oshkosh WI 54901-1805 FAX 920-424-0217
542, 543		Robert Klauk (920) 424-0046	WI Dept Of Commerce 2129 Jackson St Oshkosh WI 54901-1805 FAX 920-424-0217
549		Tom Verstegen (920) 424-0025	WI Dept of Commerce 2129 Jackson St Oshkosh WI 54901-1805 FAX 920-424-0217